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REGION ONE

Missoula, Montana

October 29, 1953

No. 7

PRODUCTION PEAK - Logging of infested spruce probably reached a maximum volume for the season in the period from September 13 to 26. During those two weeks, a total of 17.1 million board feet of infested spruce were hauled out of the woods. Of this total, 12.6 million came from national forest lands and 4.3 million from all other ownerships.

The fall of 1952 was thought to be unusually favorable for logging and other work in the spruce areas. So far the fall of 1953 has been equally favorable. Only minor amounts of snow or rain have fallen in the spruce stands of the region. This is a welcome break for loggers and for the many contractors building spruce access roads at the higher elevations where heavy snowfalls usually occur by this time.

SCORE BOARD - INFESTED SPRUCE LOGGED

<u>National Forest Ownership</u>	<u>1952 Production Year</u> (July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953)	<u>1953 Production Year</u> (July 1, 1953 to September 26)	<u>LAST 2 WEEKS</u> (Sept. 27 to October 10)
	<u>Million Board Feet</u>	<u>Million Board Feet</u>	<u>Million Board Feet</u>
Cabinet	0.8	1.4	0.4
Clearwater	0	0	0.1
Flathead	2.4	3.1	0.9
Kaniksu	6.5	8.3	1.3
Kootenai	57.7	24.5	4.2
Lolo	1.7	7.8	1.3
St. Joe	7.2	9.7	1.6
Subtotal	76.3	54.8	9.8
<u>All Other Ownerships</u>	18.7	20.8	6.5
GRAND TOTALS	95.0	75.6	16.3

KOOTENAI DISPATCHES - This is reported to have been a tin pants fall in the Wigwam Creek spruce areas fit to separate the men from the boys. After training by Smith and Aemisegger a crew composed of Navratil, Ingraham, Wirt, Thompson, Silvernail, Kuester, Kimsey, Kielhorn, and Totten made an insect survey and timber cruise of 6,000 acres in Bluebird, Wolverine, Wam, Rich and Wigwam Creeks. They won the respect of man and beetle by working in weather such as only the Wigwam can produce. A new record has been set, according to Navratil, for tin pants with the greatest water-holding capacity in contact with snow brush in the rain.

Logging has started on the Little North Fork of Big Creek spruce sale. 1,000,000 board feet has been cut and 2,000,000 board feet has been marked of the 7,000,000 board feet of spruce to be logged.

The West Pinkham Creek spruce stand has been opened up for spruce salvage logging. The development is half completed and logging will be started next week by J. Neils Lumber Co.

The Sutton Ridge sale is completed for the season with a total of 6,000,000 board feet of spruce logged including the 183 trap trees put down in the area. The marking of these sales was done by Ray Karr, junior forester, Max Aiken and Donald Goreman.

Seventeen explorer scouts and their advisor, Dr. L. Lundberg, made a trip to spruce stands with J. R. Milodragovich, B. R. VanGieson and Jim Steinhause, September 26. They visited the Lost Fork sale, Turner Ranger Station, East Fork Lookout Creek and the Pipe Creek plantation. Spruce logging was seen in action. The boys learned about the life cycle of the beetles and how to identify the beetles and infested spruce trees.

KANIKSU NEWS WITH BEAR STORIES - The engineering force on the Kaniksu is getting caught up with the surveying required for the access roads. Bonners Ferry District had four Bureau of Public Roads survey camps out at once. All four were in very inaccessible areas. The use of two full pack strings was required nearly full time to supply these camps. The district did a fine job. It was a tough one, too! These Bureau of Public Roads camps set up right against the snow banks when the season first started.

Besides the four Bureau of Public Roads survey crews, the forest had four small crews making the route locations. One crew did a week of backpacking to get the job done. As usual, the bear versus man battle was a good one. At Half-way House a forest crew had to board the windows to get a night's sleep; result, Mr. Bear came in through the roof and ceiling. Another forest survey crew on Lower Canuck Creek chased Mr. Bruin up a tall tree, then proceeded to fall the tree. Bear and tree landed with a loud crash. Although badly shaken up, Mr. Bruin took off, only to come back again the next night. Sometimes you can't win; but after bear hunting season opened last month, think you could get a bear near camp?

Ranger Carl Wetterstrom reports that the spruce beetles have attacked Sullivan Lake Ranger District. Operational surveys are complete on Leola and Deemer Creeks. Tom Finch, chief of party, Tracy Wright, James Thomson, Robert Larson, have begun operational surveys in the Salmo River country. Four inches of new snow hit the Salmo country on October 19. Karl Hutton is providing the well-cooked meals, and Tracy Wright maintains that he is gaining weight on the cruising job. Tracy states that on some days cruising is rough. In addition to looking for the infested spruce, he has to keep his eyes on the pickled hunters.

LOLO REPORTS - Lolo crews crawling around in the brush in the dark of night with roaring torches, smarting eyes and frozen backs have burned 500 acres of spruce bark beetle slash on the Lolo and Seeley Lake Districts. Another 150 acres are nearly ready for burning. Additional slash burning is dependent on loggers getting out logs decked in the woods. All burning jobs are reported as successful.

Contractors are nearing completion of the Dick Creek access road with three dozers, a compressor and a clearing crew working on the lower section. The Tree Farmers logging crew has been hauling 100 M per day over this road for several weeks.

The Anaconda Copper Mining Company bought the Granite Creek timber sale October 26. It includes 2,750,000 board feet of spruce. This is a very heavily hit area where control is urgently needed. It is relatively inaccessible.

Bob Rehfeld and crew are completing the preliminary survey on the back end of the Crooked Fork access road. They will move immediately to the survey of the proposed Brushy Fork road. Both jobs are in the best of elk hunting country. One elk hunting party, heading for their favorite hunting spot, ran into about five miles of trail buried under brush and logs on the Squaw Creek access road job. It took them two days to go back and around another way to the camp spot and they were not too happy about road jobs and bark beetles. The consolation may be that next year they can drive to the camp in their car - with 500 other hunters?

HOT OFF THE TAPE - Foresters have used diameter and surveying tapes for years. Now they are recording their voices on a tape to make radio broadcasts.

Recently, under the capable direction of Pat Goodover, of station KXLL in Missoula, and Vic Sandberg, as arranger, Axel Lindh, Jim Evenden, Bud Moore, Paul Ingebo and Dave Scott "cut a platter" on recording tape about the spruce bark beetle campaign. Axel Lindh made his introductory remarks in his office. The others spoke in the spruce woods at Packers Meadow off the Lewis and Clark Highway on the Lolo. A one hour recording was made complete with the sound of bulldozers, chain saws and falling trees. Loggers were interviewed. It was all informal and unrehearsed. The program was released over KXLL, Missoula, Saturday, October 24, and may be heard on other stations in the near future.

COLD WINTER PREDICTED - During his recent visit to the spruce bark beetle project, Ed Cliff, assistant chief in charge of national forest administration, encountered the director of the Upper Yaak weather predicting service. He forecast that a hard winter was coming. When asked how he knew, he said that the beavers were building their dams a foot higher than usual so the ponds would not freeze solid to the bottom and prevent them from using the under-water doors to their houses.

When asked how his prediction for last winter worked out, the private weather service admitted with a twinkle in his eye, "Not so good."

National Geographic of April 1933 has an illustrated article on North American Woodpeckers.

Dendroctonus means killers of trees.

FLATHEAD RADIO REPORT - All trap trees felled prior to the current flight year have been logged or treated.

The Bureau of Entomology has completed all of its spruce bark beetle surveys. Robert DeLamontre was in charge.

Oliver Meyer is in charge of the current trap tree work. He is now working on plans for the fall and winter program.

The North Fork Coal Creek spruce access road of six miles has been completed by the contractor, Leo Woodward, who has moved to the Kraft Creek job.

Contractors Nelson and Smith of Great Falls have completed the four-mile section at the south end of the North Fork Flathead River road.

The above two are the first contracts for spruce access roads completed under the supervision of the Bureau of Public Roads.

EXTRA! WAS MULE KIDNAPPED BY BEETLES ON KANIKSU? - One lone mule became lost on the Continental Mountain operational survey. No trace can be found. There is much speculation that the beetles did away with him.

Robert Porterfield, who had charge of this survey, has been compiling the data and using up adding machine tape at an alarming rate.

Bob Jansson reports: Logging operations on the Boulder-Beaver sale are progressing satisfactorily, and the continued good weather has been helpful.

Members of the Priest Lake-Priest River Advisory Board recently spent a day visiting the logging operation in Boulder Creek. Members viewed salvage operations of bark beetle infested spruce. They were shown a group of trap trees which were so situated that the logger could not remove them in time this year. Bark was peeled off revealing large numbers of beetle larvae and immature adult beetles. A Forest Service crew under the direction of Robert McCarthy was spraying these trap trees. Board members were conducted through the sale area by Ranger Jansson and H. J. Viche.

Ranger Sam Evans has four active spruce sales on the Falls District. The cut, to date, is around 2 million feet. This figure includes approximately 80 thousand cut during fall of 1952 and hauled out during July 1953. This latter volume is reported to have served excellently as a trap for the beetles. Also, about 1 million feet of spruce cut during 1953 flight period from late June and early August, absorbed more bugs via traps. Result: Bureau surveys show marked decrease in infestation in 1953 as against 1952.

FAST ONE FROM COEUR D'ALENE DOUGLAS-FIR BARK BEETLE JOB - The foreman met one of his ex-crew members in town.

"Why did you quit?"

"You promised me a job until the snow flies, didn't you?"

"Yes."

"Well, the snow flew so I blew."

ENGINEERING ITEMS - Over 57 miles of spruce access roads had been completed to October 23 as follows: Kaniksu, Lightning Creek, 9.0 miles; Kootenai, South Fork Meadow Creek, 4.0 miles and Clarence Creek, 3.1 miles; Flathead, North Fork Flathead, Section A, 4.0 miles and Coal Creek, 6.0 miles; Lolo, Packers Meadow (surfacing), 5.5 miles and Cedar Creek, 13.7 miles; and St. Joe, Marble Creek system, 12.0 miles.

Nine bids were opened by the Bureau of Public Roads in Missoula October 20 for the construction of the 7 miles of the Kraft-Glacier Creek road on the Flathead. The L. A. Woodward Construction Company of Missoula submitted the low bid of \$102,306.50.

Bids are to be opened October 30 in the Bureau of Public Roads office in Boise on the last job for the season. This is the Rock Creek-Cold Springs road of 8.7 miles which is above Bungalow Ranger Station on the Clearwater Forest.

UNREHEARSED OPINIONS of timber management people on the question, "When do you think the beetles will let us get back to normal?"

Lindh: (Sorry, but we could not find Axel.)

Huff: "When I was on the Custer -----."

Stoltz: "Speaking of the Timber Resource Review point system -----."

Larson: "I see a beetle sale coming up the hall."

Noff: What's normal, anyhow?"

West: "Have you seen Paul Ingebo's new necktie?"

Scott: "What really bothers me is -----,"

DeJarnette: "Now you take my little Scouts -----."

Weyermann: "Who wants to be normal?"

Matthews: "Once upon a time there were management plans."

Cramer: "Colorado was not normal for a long time."

Betty Gauld: "Now, Harry says -----."

Helen Rigg: "Don't you dare print that!"

Marie Reed: "My feet hurt."

Nora Regenos: "Where is that cutting report?"

Lois Klemmedson: "Haven't you always had beetles?"

